

Stapleford Scrapbook 1897 to 1990
Facts, Features and (occasional) Fallacies
reported in Cambridge Newspapers
summarised by
Mike Petty

Most of these stories originally appeared in the Cambridge Daily/Evening/News or the Cambridgeshire Weekly News, its sister title.

They are supplemented by some articles published in the Cambridge Independent Press or Cambridge Chronicle

Most were featured in my 'Looking Back' column in the Cambridge News from 1996-2014

The complete 'Cambridgeshire Scrapbook' of which this is a small section is published online at bit.ly/CambsCollection

I have digital and other copies of most of the stories summarised.
I hope to publish these online one day. If you would like them in the meantime then please get in touch.

The original volumes are housed in the Cambridgeshire Collection at Cambridge Central Library where there are many other indexes dating back to 1770.

They also have detailed newspaper cuttings files on over 750 topics that have been compiled since the 1960s.

Newspapers sometimes get things wrong. I copy things out incorrectly. Do check

There are a multitude of spelling and layout errors. Please forgive or correct them

News never stops but this file was finished on 31 August 2016.

I will maintain supplements and corrections – contact me for anything you need

Please make what use of these notes that you may. Kindly remember where they came from

See my website – www.mikepetty.org.uk for further notes.

Mike Petty, Stretham

2017

1897 09 07

Dr Harris, of the Grove, Stapleford, was peculiar. Opening with the 5th of February this year, when the trap delivered his baggage for the first time in Stapleford, Dr Harris seems to have carried on in high style by virtue of sheer audacity and bounce, driving about in a trap that did not belong to him, with a horse for which he had not paid and driven by a servant, who by some rule contrary to that generally governing such persons was content apparently to work without wages. Their orders were for the "best of everything" and local tradesmen - for a time - regularly deposited their goods at the Doctor's door and came away sweetly hoping for a day of reckoning. Some of them tried the reckoning without getting anything, others got more than was wanted of the wrong kind of settlement

1897 09 07

When you mention the name of Dr Harris to the head of the firm of Hunnybun and son, coachbuilders of Cambridge, his genial face beams. On 24th February Harris bought a governess car, neglecting, however to pay over the shekels. Within a week he came back with the cart and exchanged it for a phaeton. But Messrs Hunnybun are "canny" men. They sent a man with a polite note to the Doctor stating that the wheels of the phaeton they found were not altogether right in some small detail, would the Doctor allow them to rectify the fault. The faulty wheeled - and unpaid for - phaeton revolved on those wheels to Sidney Street, and never rolled back again

1897 10 30

At the Old Bailey, Theophilus Turner, describe as a surgeon, who in the spring resided at Stapleford Grove as Dr Harris and did business with several Cambridge tradesmen, and Ella Macdonald, stated to be well connected, were indicted for conspiracy. The female prisoner at once pleaded guilty but the male prisoner waited until the case had been opened and evidence called before admitting his guilt

1898 05 06

Stapleford boasts of having been more frequently visited by outbreaks of fire than almost any other village in the county, and to enumerate those of a more or less disastrous nature that have taken place in the near vicinity during the last half century would be a tedious task. During that time over half a dozen farmsteads have been completely burnt down, innumerable stack fires have expanded their short-lived vigour, and several cottages have ascended to the clouds in smoke. And few of the present inhabitants do not remember the conflagration at Galls rope factory when the amount of damage was assessed at thousands. Yet they have no fire engine, nor have they fear for the morrow, what it may bring forth

1898 11 18

Dr Armistead, Stapleford doctor, p2

1900 12 08

Stapleford fracas, p2

1901 07 06

Stapleford pub case, p3

1901 08 16

Stapleford church organ, p3

1903 02 25

A serious fire occurred at Stapleford by which a house, known as The Poplars, was completely razed to the ground. It was large, spacious and old-fashioned, having been build about 200 years ago and was composed of woodwork, lath and plaster. Only the chimneys were made of brickwork and it is quite obvious that a fire of any size would soon destroy such an old place. Such was the case. It is believed that a spark from the wash-house chimney fell on the thatched roof and spread rapidly.

1903 11 09

One hardly expects in the present day to find a highwayman abroad in the early hours of the evening. But Stephen Hagger, a farmer of Stapleford had just crossed the Stump Cross when a man rushed from under the hedge and called upon him to stop. Hagger however spurred his horse and galloped off but two pistol shots were fired at him; on arriving home he examined his hat and found a hole in it, such as might have been made by a revolver bullet.

1905 01 06

Stapleford school, p4

1095 03 24

Alderman Hurrell called attention to the decision of the Education Committee to close Stapleford Council School and accommodate the scholars at Shelford. As this was a mile and a quarter distant the children would have to walk five miles a day or take their dinners with them. It was not all sunshine in the winter months when children aged from three to five would have to get up at 7.30 and tramp away through slush and snow. But there were 98 schools in the county with an average attendance of less than 100 and if every little school was to be kept alive it would mean high rates 05 03 24c-d

1906 03 10

The Red Cow, Landbeach, sold half a barrel and six dozen bottles of beer a week. A share-out club with 65 members met there fortnightly. Within 760 paces there were 47 private houses and four licensed pubs. The British Queen, with better accommodation, was nearby. The population of the village was 413 and allowing for 78 school children, there was a licensed house to every 67 adults. There were cottages at the back which provided facilities for secret drinking, especially as the house stood back 15 yards from the road. But the landlord was a teetotaler who did not encourage this. Also: Carrier's Cart Shelford, Haunch of Mutton & Plough & Horses Waterbeach, Rose & Crown Willingham, Hare & Hounds Over, Dolphin Stapleford, 06 03 10c & d

1906 06 30

Fourteen public houses have been closed under the Licensing Act of 1904. They include a beer house at Heath Road Litlington, which sold one barrel a week, including stout, and a gallon of ginger wine. All their beer was made from pure malt and hops and it was a better house than the two nearest to it. There were four fully-licensed houses, four beer houses and one off-licence in the village. The Dolphin at Stapleford had been shut up for six weeks as the former landlord had run away and the village appeared to do well without it. The present tenant was a cycle agent and taxidermist as well, 'So you stuff people first and put them on wheels afterwards?' also Cambridge: Jolly Butchers, Star, Sun; Bassingbourn: Crown; Bottisham: Plough; Comberton: Plough; Fordham: Six Bells, Landbeach: Red Cow; Lt Shelford: Carrier's Cart; Stapleford: Dolphin; Steeple Morden: beer house; Waterbeach: Haunch of Mutton, Plough and Horses; Willingham: William IV, Rose and Crown 06 06 30d,e, f

1906 11 16

The Compensation Authority considered claims for premises closed under the Licensing Act. They included a beerhouse at North Brook End, Steeple Morden, The Plough at Comberton, the Red Cow, Landbeach and Carrier's Cart at Lt Shelford. Potton Brewery said they would lose £275 if the licence of a beerhouse at Heath Road, Litlington was taken away but accepted £240 as compensation. However Benskin's Watford Brewery refused £251 for the Sun in Newmarket Road, Cambridge. also Stapleford Dolphin, Waterbeach Haunch of Mutton & Plough & Horses, Sawston – Flower Pot, Willingham – King William IV, Bottisham Plough, Soham Queen's Arms and Old Brewery 06 11 16a & b

1907 04 17

A retired Indian Civil servant was found dead with a revolver by his side. The deceased, who graduated at Caius College and was a teacher of Bengali, had been in ill-health for some time. His absence from home at Stapleford aroused comment so his son cycled over to the Indian Civil Service Rooms on Market Hill Cambridge where he found his father sitting in an armchair, shot through the heart. 07 04 17

1908 03 10

Stapleford child run over by Pamplin traction engine – 08 03 10a

1908 06 12

The Sanitary Committee recommended that a well should be sunk at the end of Bar Lane, Stapleford at a cost of £50, but residents petitioned against it. The well was not required and would impose a rate, the complained. The matter arose out of an old report; there had been no trouble with the water recently and if a well was sunk it would not be used. But the water had been analysed and found to be bad. It was referred to the Parish Council to decide what to do. 08 06 12 p8

1908 07 31

Twenty-six licensed houses are to close, magistrates decided. They include the Robin Hood at Litlington, Chesterton Long Reach, Swaffham Prior's Uncle Tom's Cabin and the Three Jolly Watermen in Waterbeach Fen. But the Fox in the Wood at Soham and the Cock at Isleham were spared after Police Superintendent Winter failed to appear to give evidence. The licence of the Black Horse at Over was renewed after the Star Brewery appealed. also Barrington Boot & Shoe, Bassingbourn Yew Tree, Steeple Morden Lion, Swaffham Prior John Bull, Bottisham Rose & Crown, Cottenham Six Bells, Oakington Lion and Lamb, Stapleford Hammer & Anvil, Swavesey Chequers, Willingham Little Rose, Castle Camps George, Balsham Ram, Linton White Hart, Cambridge Yorkshire Grey, Old Red Lion, Nine Pines, Thatched House, Baker's Arms, Red Lion, Brewery Tap & Carpenters' Arms. CWN 08 07 31

1909 11 26

There had been a serious outbreak of diphtheria at Stapleford resulting in two deaths. The Sanitary Inspector has secured permission to use an old school for an Isolation Hospital and to move the nurses and the children there. Bedding had been secured from the Oakington Isolation Hospital but there were still one or two items of furniture needed. He could not use the Histon Isolation Hospital because there were so many cases of scarlet fever there and it would be impossible to allot separate wards for each disease. Also complaint about the Oakington hospital. CWN 09 11 26

1909 12 03

The Ortona Motor Bus Company, whose enterprise has proved such a boon in Cambridge and Chesterton, intend to commence a service to Sawston via Trumpington, Shelford and Stapleford. A fine new Maudsley bus has been obtained which will do the full journey in 50 minutes. Parcels as well as passengers will be carried. CWN 09 12 03

1910 02 18

Stapleford diphtheria outbreak – 10 02 18i

1910 05 20

Sixty-eight cases of scarlet fever (none fatal) were recorded in Chesterton Rural District last year of which 50 were removed to the Isolation Hospital at Oakington together with 44 cases of diphtheria (6 fatal) some of which were removed to a temporary hospital in connection with the outbreak at Stapleford. There were ten cases of typhoid (3 fatal) and three of puerperal fever. During the year 156 new houses were erected and eight cases of overcrowding were dealt with, the Medical Officer reported – 10 05 20

1911 03 03

A dental institute in connection with Stapleford Council School would cost £100 for the initial equipment and the dentist's fee. A similar scheme in Cambridge had been one of the best pieces of work done for the sake of children. It was a good thing to see to children's' teeth but if they did it for one school it must be done all round, which would mean a great expense. Councillors agreed to pay £25 for equipment provided children attending Shelford School were included in the scheme 11 03 03a

1911 06 30

Chesterton Horticultural and Sports Society held their first annual show in the pretty grounds of Meadow Croft. The extreme dryness of the weather accounted for the emptiness of some of the classes but still 500 entries were received. At Burwell the long, cold spring and droughty summer almost prevented the showing of some vegetables but at Stapleford flower show the cottagers' section was especially good in regard to potatoes and beans 11 06 30f

1912 07 26

Shelford & Stapleford dental clinic report – 12 07 26m

1913 05 11

School Medical Officer report, Stapleford dental clinic *

1914 05 22

Off to Australia,—Mr. Ken Layton left his (Stapleford) home yesterday to take up business with his brother in Sydney (Australia). He was a prominent member of the Church Choir, and esteemed by a large circle of friends. – 14 05 22 CIPof

1914 10 30

The dentist of the Stapleford & Sawston clinic said that at Stapleford, where the children were re-inspected annually, no teeth were found to be unsaveable. But at Shelford, where work had been interrupted for a year, some children had teeth so decayed as to be beyond saving. This emphasises the importance of annual inspections. Only one treatment was refused at Stapleford where there is no charge, but at Shelford, where payment is sought, treatment was refused for 25 out of 82 children for whom it was advised.

1914 11 20

People in Shelford and Stapleford are worried about mysterious lights shining on the Gogs and are concerned that there are spies. But Dr Henry Bond says the light came from his house. There is concrete in the foundations and the removal of the house might provide a base from which a German gun could demolish King's College chapel. He admits he speaks German and has had holidays there. But he is not a spy and honest folk are quite safe. However given the present alarm nobody who has electric light in his house, a bottle of German wine in his cellar, or worse of all (like our Royal Family) German blood in his veins, will be safe. 14 11 20

1916 04 05

Shelford Damage. — The great blizzard last week did an immense amount of damage in the village of Great Shelford, and neighbourhood. A number of trees were blown down. The drains had been blocked consequently the road in Sunnett's Lane has been impassable for a considerable distance, and many gardens have also been flooded. In Little Shelford over 100 trees have been laid low. The road from Whittlesford through Little Shelford was blocked by a large elm tree that stood in the garden of King's Farm. It fell across the road, obstructing the traffic. The road between the two bridges was also rendered impassable by trees, the walls and fences being damaged. In Stapleford a number of trees were blown down; one fell on the school house, knocking in the window. A large arm of a tree belonging to Mr. Linton, Stapleford House, fell on the telegraph wires, breaking them through.

1917 01 31

Killed in naval battle.—Mr. and Mrs A. Madison, of Stapleford, have received official notification that their second son, Sub Lieut. Bryant A. Maddison, R.N.R., was killed in the naval action in the North Sea on January 23rd. The deceased officer was 20 years of age and secured an apprenticeship in: the Merchant Service before joining the Navy. This is the second son Mr. and Mrs. Maddison have lost in the war.

1919 09 03.

Constable's Promotion.—The many friends of P.c. A. E. Payne, of Cottenham, will be glad to learn that he has been promoted to the rank of sergeant, and will take up his duties at Stapleford in October, P.c. Payne joined the Cambs Constabulary in June, 1907 and was first stationed at Toft. He joined the Army on Sept. 23 1916, and proceeded to France, being severely wounded near Ypres in Nov. 1917 and spending several months in hospital. He was demobilised on March 11 this year, when he was stationed at Cottenham. Although the time he has spent there has been short, P.c. Payne has made many friends and become exceedingly popular both as a constable and in private life.

1920 10 13

Stack Fire. — A large stack of straw, the property of Mr. J. W. White, smallholder and shopkeeper, of Stapleford, was on Thursday last destroyed by fire. The outbreak was noticed by a neighbour at about 3.30 p.m. seeing it was hopeless to try and save the stack the efforts of many villagers who congregated were directed to an adjacent stack of barley belonging to another person, which by dint of great perseverance they managed to save.

1924 03 30c

Although but a baby in years the Great and Little Shelford and Stapleford Amateur Sports Association has already proved itself a sturdy infant, with a promising future before it. A satisfactory state of affairs was revealed at the first annual meeting. From a small meeting of 16 people has sprung a thriving Association consisting of over 100 people.

1924 10 10

A Stapleford grocer told the bankruptcy court that he had started a small business pushing a barrow round the surrounding villages selling groceries, with about £3 capital. He just managed to make a living and thought he was solvent. He opened a shop last February in the hope of extending the business but it proved a failure. An auctioneer made him an offer for the business which realised £7

1924 10 29

At Fulbourn a considerable increase in the number of early voters was reported. Capt Briscoe's colours and motors were well in evidence. At Balsham a cluster of children displayed scraps of red ribbons and shouted, "Vote for Garratt". A tramp was seen addressing a road sweeper near Abington and urging, with all the persuasion of his kind, the necessity for England to return a Labour government. In the course of his oratorical effort the 'gentleman of the road' beat the air with a bag containing his worldly possessions. Shelford and Stapleford as usual made a great show of the pink and white but near the centre of the village a red flag was conspicuously displayed by the roadside — on a tar burner

1925 05 22

Stapleford parishioners are working hard to raise sufficient funds to build a vestry for their church. For two years various efforts have been devoted to raising the required £450. Plans have been drawn up and it is hoped to commence building within a year or so.

1925 10 30

Chesterton RDC was told that it was very well supplied with water but five parishes had no public pumps, three had private supplies and one relied upon artesian wells where they had 13 wells continuously running. They should take powers to prevent that water running to waste. At Stapleford

the council had bought land for the erection of houses but the Cambridge Water Company area did not include the village and although the main passed in front of the land they had no right to supply water.

1926 08 19

A thorny question which seemed to have everybody guessing was investigated at the County Court, the matter at issue being an alleged encroachment near Stapleford railway bridge. Plaintiff said he had purchased the old toll house, double tenement and barns in 1925 and soon after a quickset hedge had been planted eighteen inches from his property. The little bit of land was nearly valueless for the purpose of agriculture but was not valueless to him. The judge said it was always desirable in a dispute between neighbours to settle the case if possible; he thought the hedge should be set back one foot.

1927 01 18

H.L. Hughes spoke on how town planning could be improved. The last 100 years have seen an enormous increase in population and as a result town planning if not a problem for the future but more for the immediate present. The traffic, the sewers, the gas or electricity all have to be thought of. There are roads from the foot of the Gogs to Shelford and Stapleford which only contain one or two houses along them. Buses may pass the door but one has to go miles for a doctor, a church or a school. In a few years' time people will not live in such places and these houses will be left to fall down and spoil the approach to the town

1927 02 14

The Rural Planning Sub-Committee is preparing a scheme to submit to Cambridge Council – not only for the area around its borders but including all the villages from Histon to Stapleford. It was important at a regional survey should be made now, before unconsidered development complicated the problem too much. Questionnaires sent out to the Women's Institutes had brought valuable suggestions of things to be preserved. The County Council was considering a comprehensive scheme.

1929 11 23

The parliamentary secretary to the Minister of Health visited Stapleford for the stone-laying of the 500th council house erected by the Rural District Council. It might be a good thing for Ministers of the Crown to come down to such places and see the conditions under which they were working. The former Housing Officer, Mr Bunnett, had been responsible for practically all the houses but the red brick corners on the present scheme were added by his successor. If they adopted every suggestion made there would be some very funny houses by the time they were finished. The party then went on to Harston where they viewed a new type of cottages built of concrete and timber with an old-world decoration made by pricking the plaster when wet, giving them a distinctive appearance.

1931 02 13

Mrs Harold Gray of Wandlebury House was elected to the executive of the Women's Institute movement at the end of the war and started an Institute at Stapleford. She resigned when her husband became Member of Parliament for the county but was elected President when his term of office ended. She says it is a strong social instructive link between women of each village, irrespective of rank. She is a true Bohemian at heart and has crossed the desert on a camel and almost gone 'back to Nature' on the Cocos Islands in the Pacific. 31 02 13a

1931 05 22

A Stapleford grocer was summoned for displaying verses in his shop window accusing a dairyman of adulterating his milk. One read 'Edgar had a little pump, With water soft as silk. And with the fluid from that pump, He used to mix his milk'. Crowds gathered to read them but nobody took them seriously. He claimed the milkman had broken the windows and threatened to wring his neck. 31 05 22 c & d

1934 09 06

At Sawston leather works the sheep skins used are mainly from New Zealand and Australia but the finest come from St Ives. When the skins get to the factory from the butcher they are fleshed and then split in two. The outer one is made into handbags and hat-bands, the inner into chamois leather for window-cleaning leathers and gloves - many of the factory employees take them home and do the sewing there. The skin trimmings are moved to the Granta works at Stapleford and processed into sheets of gelatine. 34 09 06

1936 09 19

A customer died with tragic suddenness in a Cambridgeshire inn. As he had not long arrived in the district, his identity remains unconfirmed. He was in the Three Horse Shoes public house at Stapleford and was about to sing a song to the company when, just before closing time, he collapsed and died. His is believed to have been a native of Chorley, Lancs, and had been working with a party of pea-pickers at Bury Farm, Stapleford. 36 09 19

1937 02 04

Mr W. King's film display at Stapleford Institute featured scenes of the maiden voyage of the Queen Mary together with two of his latest films. 'Armistice Day' included colour pictures of Poppy Day in Cambridge and 'Village Life' showing the British Legion parade, Stapleford school children at their exercises in the playground and many scenes of farming life. Stapleford's ambition is to be right up-to-date. It has a water supply with hydrants in case of fire, gas and electricity though this has not been installed at the Institute and a wire was run from the Old Vicarage to operate the projector 37 02 04

1937 05 20

Chesterton RDC told an inspector that the parishes of Histon, Impington and Girton together with Shelford and Stapleford were provided with a piped water supply but were entirely unsewered, although some properties were connected to surface water drains that discharged into watercourses passing through the inhabited parts of the parishes. The development of building estates had given rise to cess-pool areas of considerable magnitude with the danger of pollution of the sub-soil. The pumping plants would be electrically driven and would not spoil the appearance of the countryside, there would be no smell unless one broke down. But nearby house owners claimed they might have an effect on the value of properties 37 05 20 & a

1937 06 30

Stapleford fire 'Summerdale' – 37 06 30c

1937 08 20

Sir – way back in the 1890s I booked a seat with the Sawston carrier. The morning broke with a grey sky. I remember his suspicious look until I paid him the ninepence fare and threepence extra providing there was no 'scorching'. I also recollect his need of a shave. We made Stapleford in the first three hours, on to Shelford and rounded the Stone Bridge, Trumpington about noon, to schedule. But then the offside-wheel came off. I alighted at Market Hill, walked down Petty Cury and boarded a horse tram. Then from the delightful rhythm and sway of that luxuriously-upholstered vehicle I drank in the scenery of the skyscraper buildings in Regent Street before returning home – 'Blisters' 37 08 20

1938 01 29

Henry Brunning of Great Shelford was a blacksmith for 55 years being kicked by horses many times. He did an apprenticeship at Barrington, then joined Alec Redhouse's firm of engineers and general smiths at Balsham. He later worked at forges at Linton, Shelford and Stapleford. He remembers when all travelling had to be done by walking or carrier carts and there were more penny-farthing cycles than anything else. During the Great War he worked in a munitions factory at Trumpington. He treasures a box of six spoons sent by his daughter who served in France as a nurse; each carries the name of a battlefield on which she'd served. 38 01 29

1938 05 13

Stapleford church celebrate May Day with Morris dancers – 38 05 13

1939 09 18

Elderly man knocked down by car at Stapleford during black-out – 39 09 18 & 19a

1941 05 19

Gt Shelford farmer fined as failed to plough land at Stapleford – 41 05 19b

1941 08 22

Snacks for Farm Workers. It is hoped to start a temporary canteen at Stapleford for the provision of snacks for harvest workers, to be opened on Tuesday and Thursday evenings. This was to have started this week, but was held up, waiting for the meat. It is hoped this difficulty will soon be solved and the food provided. The farmers' wives in the village are making a special effort to help, the cooking being done at Bury Farm and Magog Farm. Mrs. Layng, of Three Ways, is acting as secretary. At Melbourn, a harvest canteen opened at the council school last week

1941 09 26

Harvest Supper—New Style. In years gone by the harvest supper "hawky" or "horkey," was a popular event in the villages of Cambridgeshire, and last Friday the custom was revived—but with a difference (says Watchman). This new-style "horkey" took place at Stapleford, and was organised by the committee of the canteen that has been run there for the harvest workers. It was given to farmers and workers who had patronised the canteen and thus enabled them to get the benefit of the small profit made on the harvest snacks.

1943 11 26

Decorated by the King, — Mrs. Doggett, of 12 Granta Terrace Stapleford, and her son and Miss A. Fuller, who is serving in the A.T.S. had an exciting day on Tuesday, when they attended an investiture at Buckingham Palace to see Sgt George Doggett decorated by the King. Sgt Doggett won the British Empire Medal in Canada, where he has served for 2½ years

1947 09 20

I hear that the "shooting" of the Cambridge Accident Prevention Council's new film finished this week, after difficulties caused by the death of five of its "extras" through poisoning. The "extras" concerned were puppies who absorbed through their pads a solution with which the kennels had been sprayed. They were duly replaced, and final shots of a number of pups walking over a pedestrian crossing were taken on Thursday in a garden at Stapleford. Teaching some of the lessons of road safety the film will show a dog doing kerb drill, as well as driving a small car and observing the rules of the road, including stopping at the traffic lights! The film is believed to be the first of its kind.

1948 10 11

Sir - The time is over-due for drawing attention to the scandalous conditions of many of our ancient rights-of-way and footpaths. From Bury Farm, Stapleford a public footpath leads across a fine stretch of upland to Babraham. During the war the stone and iron bridge was removed where the path led across the Babraham river and neither of the parish councils have taken any action about it. I suggest that every village school should construct a home-made map of the village on which was delineated every public path. The old inhabitants would supply the necessary information. It should be the business of the teacher to perambulate these paths at least once a year, in the company of the scholars - "Countryman"

1950 02 18

New premises in Ainsworth Street which will house the social club of Messrs Kerridge (Cambridge) Ltd were opened by the deputy mayor in the presence of a company numbering nearly 150. Difficulty had been experienced in obtaining accommodation but the present clubroom was the late Mr Charles Kerridge's recreation room at his residence, Lordship Close, Stapleford. They were a gift to the social

club from the directors of the company. In these days a club of the kind he was opening was a great asset to a firm of the size and reputation of Messrs Kerridge, he said.

1952 03 27

When Chesterton RDC acquired land to erect 2,000 council houses in “necklace villages” in order to accommodate the “over-spilled” population of Cambridge they should obtain sufficient land to allow for private building as well, said a councillor. Council houses were subsidised to the extent of £35 12s. and building private houses would ease the financial burden. The sewerage of the parishes of Milton and Great and Little Shelford was already in and they should be the first villages to be developed. Fulbourn, Stapleford, Harston, Barton and Coton were also on the priority list.

1952 07 02

Sir – In 1950 the Shelford and Stapleford Scout Troop was re-opened after a lapse of many years and the first question was that of a H.Q. where meetings could be held. The Shelford guides could not help as their barn had developed dry rot in the floor which was no longer safe for games, and they too would soon be homeless. After many months of effort enough was raised to buy and erect an ex-Army hut. Permission was obtained and the H.Q. opened with great rejoicing in April 1951. But then came the Central Land Board with a claim for a £300 development charge!

1955 12 15

Stapleford villagers crowded into the general store to see the ‘door-bell-that-would-not-stop-ringing’. It began when the storekeeper removed the electric door-bell and put it in a bucket. He received the shock of his life when it began to ring and continued for two hours, even though it was not connected to anything. Soon the store was crowded with sightseers and many views were put forward as to the cause. The mystery was only solved when a CDN reporter dismantled the bell and discovered a small battery neatly concealed in a compartment thought to house the mechanism. 55 12 15a

1963 03 08

Stapleford and Shelford would probably be virtually unknown outside the immediate district but for one man – L.L. Baynes. Ten years ago he felt that the D.I.Y. movement had great possibilities so built a single-storey shop, Shelford Building Supplies. Handymen appreciated his advice and range of products and as the business expanded extensions became necessary, leading to a new store in 1962. Undergraduates come to get materials for making bookshelves and members of the armed forces from the many camps in the area are also good customers. Now he issues a 36-page illustrated catalogue of his stock. 63 03 08c

1963 06 07

Stapleford man builds ultra-light monoplane in garage – 63 06 07c

1963 11 04

Stapleford Parish Council has called a public meeting to discuss the removal of the recreation ground from the outskirts to the centre of the village. The cricket club is opposed, having done much work on the present pitch. Recently two hard tennis courts were constructed at a cost of £1,000. Now Chesterton RDC wants to develop land at Vine Farm for a school, recreation ground and a limited amount of housing. They say the present rec would make an ideal housing site 63 11 04a

1963 11 16

Stapleford debate future of recreation ground – 63 11 16

1964 12 16

A bomb disposal team exploded five pounds of gelignite and a quantity of industrial detonators found in a wood on the Gig Magog Hill. The gelignite was of the type used in safe-breaking and it was found by police after they received information from a man serving a prison sentence. The explosion blew a two feet deep hole and was heard more than a mile away in Stapleford. People rushed into the street to see what had happened. 64 12 16

1965 10 25

Magpie service station, London Rd, Stapleford opens – 65 10 25a

1972 05 12

Robinson and Gimbert, the Cambridge builders with reputation for high class work have been taken over by one of the "big boys" of British home building. From next week they will be trading under the direction of T & E Homes Ltd of Reigate. The Cambridge firm who started in Guildhall Street 25 years ago and moved to Victoria Road six years ago have 60 full time employees. Robinson and Gimbert currently have schemes on the go at Oakington and Stapleford, and recently completed one at Waterbeach. They build about 50 houses a year

1975 02 03

World records don't fall very often, but one took a hammering in Gt Shelford when Robert Manderson of Stapleford sang for nine hours without a break and that took care of the existing record for non-stop singing in the Guinness Book of records.

1975 09 23

A coffin-stool – one of the stools on which coffins used to be rested during a funeral service has disappeared from Stapleford church. "They are much sought after as furnishings for people's houses these days", said the vicar, the Rev C.A. Barber. "We haven't any proof that it has been stolen – it might just have been borrowed", he said

1976 05 15

Tourists left King's college chapel, Cambridge, when Stapleford sheep farmer, Mr Gerald Beavis, gave what many people took to be a demonstration for their benefit of sheep shearing. But it was a routine part of his work. With a flock of 41 Suffolk ewes grazing on Scholars' Piece he decided to do the shearing at the college rather than lose time by taking the sheep back to his farm

1977 05 27

Births, marriages and deaths have become a way of life for Mr Peter Layng. For he has spent the last 11 years copying out parish registers. The first register he copied was of Stapleford when he was researching his wife's side of the family and his hobby took off from there. Now he spends almost every morning at the County Record Office and is working on his 45th register. He has copied out big registers such as Bassingbourn as well as small ones like Tadlow. His lists are typed up in quadruplicate by Mr Colin Hatton and his wife Angela.

1977 10 13

Stapleford Parish Council reaffirmed that it was willing to run the village library with voluntary helpers if it would result in it being saved. The library, which occupies a room in the school, is open for eight hours a week and its one of eight threatened with closure by the County Council. But the County Librarian says this could not be considered because it would cause trouble with the trade union.

1977 10 18

The Three Horseshoes at Stapleford, which had been closed since April 1976 is gone forever. And in its place is a completely new pub, The Longbow. Only the exterior of the building remains the same, inside are all the comforts of a modern establishment. Initially they are stocking Truman Crown, Whitbread Trophy and Whitbread "BB" mild on draught but intend to supply according to local demand.

1977 12 03

Restoration work is underway on a pair of thatched cottages in Church Street Stapleford, bought for just £1. Also included in the deal was an old slaughterhouse next door. All are being rethatched. The buildings were owned by a development company and were offered to the Parish Council when a

preservation order was made. The cottages were then sold to the Cambridgeshire Cottage Improvement Society who will renovate and let them to people in the village. The council has kept the slaughterhouse which may be used as a museum.

1978 03 03

No public libraries in Cambridgeshire will be closed this year – and books stocks will not be depleted – although the County Council is facing a continuing financial crisis. The council had threatened to close the Milton Road and Mill Road libraries in Cambridge, village libraries at Stapleford and Milton and two libraries in Peterborough. The threats caused storms of protest and now financial experts have discovered the council has saved £60,000 on last year's spending which can be used to buy new books.

1978 06 06

Annie Norman moved back into the home she has lived in for 36 – but it was a different cottage to the one she left last October. The cottage at Church Street, Stapleford was one of two bought for £1 from Shelford Building Supplies by the Cambridgeshire Cottage Improvement Society. Now it has a bathroom and lavatory, new thatch, plaster and paint. "It's fantastic now, previously there was only a lavatory at the bottom of the garden", she said.

1982 04 02

Welch's Garage at Stapleford has an excellent reputation but since they negotiated the Mazda dealership they have been looking for premises to expand. Now they have a completely new garage and showroom at Foxton which will specialise in Ford cars. It started with a wooden shed but now customers will find a purpose built showroom plus the usual service station facilities. They are very optimistic about the future and have had particular success with Fiat Magirusdeuts commercial vehicles. 82 04 02e

1983 12 24

If you find a BMX bike in your stocking you will be looking for somewhere to ride it. Cambridge has not had a proper track but now a Shelford businessman and a publican have joined together and a track at Stapleford is a distinct possibility. They are keen to hear from youngsters who will back the proposals and join a proper BMX club. 83 12 24 p7

1986 04 25

Two Cambridge libraries threatened with closure are facing their second crisis in eight years. The axe first loomed over Milton Road and Mill Road branches in 1977 but they were saved together with others in Milton and Stapleford. Now a report says they are old and in the wrong position to provide the best service. But Cambridgeshire Labour councillors have started a campaign to save them and Alliance councillors are organising a petition against closure. 86 04 25

1987 02 27

Trumpington newsagent Bert Truelove is celebrating half a century in the trade – and he is only 57. He started selling papers in his father's Stapleford shop in 1937 when he was so small that he had to stand on a box to see the customers. After the war the family came to Trumpington and battled through years of austerity when a shortage of papers meant demand for copies of the News often succeeded supplies. It is a different picture now with a boom in sales. New technology ensures he gets the papers on time. He has not forgotten the paper boys and girls who have helped him over the years: they have been invited to a disco in the village hall. 87 02 27a

1988 07 05

Shopkeeper of the Year, Jerry Brown, took over the village store at Hinton Way, Gt Shelford, ten years ago and his outstanding service has been rewarded with continued custom. He provides a service supermarkets cannot give, selling everything from fresh bread to stationery, wine and even tins of snails. He belongs to Londis, opening every day – even Christmas Day if the newspapers

publish. His customers say “It’s a very sociable shop, he enjoys a joke and stimulating conversation”.
Also Stapleford, Impington, Teversham 88 07 05a & b

1988 07 19

Stapleford flower show centenary – 88 07 19b